UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS
Basic Officer Course
The Basic School
Marine Corps Combat Development Command
Quantico, Virginia 22134-5019

B2103

SERVICE PISTOL

Student Handout

1. **General**. The M-9 service pistol is the standard service sidearm for the U.S. Armed Forces. Selection of the pistol was the result of a design competition lasting from 1980 until 1985 when the Beretta Model 92SB-F was selected and adopted as the M9 service pistol. The M9 is the T/O weapon of most officers, SNCOs and those Marines whose MOS requires the use of their hands in performance of their primary duties. The pistol is primarily a close personal defense weapon.

2. **Description**. The M9 pistol is a 9mm, semiautomatic, recoil-operated, magazine-fed, double-action handgun. It utilizes standard NATO 9x19mm ammunition, M882.

3. **Specifications**

Caliber	- 9x19mm NATO
Length	- 8.54 inches
Width	- 1.50 inches
Height	- 5.51 inches
Weight	- 2.54 lbs. (loaded)
Barrel length	- 4.92 inches
Rifling	- Right-hand twist, 6 groove 1:10
Muzzle velocity	- 1230 fps
Muzzle energy	- 420 ft lbs.
Max. effective range	- 50 meters
Max range	-1300 meters

4. **Weapons Handling/Safety**. The four safety rules apply:

a. Treat every weapon as if it were loaded.

b. Never point a weapon at anything you do not intend to shoot.

c. Keep finger straight and off the trigger until you are ready to fire.

d. Keep weapon on safe until you intend to fire.

5. **Clearing**. The clearing procedure for the M9 pistol is a fixed set of steps that must be properly executed in order to clear the weapon of any ammunition and render it safe for handling/disassembly. The clearing procedures are as follows:

a. Place the safety in the "SAFE" position. Rotate the ambidextrous safety all the way down until no red is showing.

b. Depress the magazine release button and remove the magazine from the weapon.

c. With the pistol pointed in a safe direction, grasp the slide serrations and fully retract the slide to eject any chambered cartridge. (Figure 1)

d. Use the right thumb to push up on the slide stop and lock the slide to the rear (Figure 2). Visually inspect the chamber to ensure that it is clear. At night, insert a finger into the chamber and magazine well to check for remaining rounds. The weapon is now cleared and is ready to be disassembled.

Note: When physically inspecting the chamber, ensure right hand thumb is removed from slide stop first.

Figure 1. Retracting slide assembly

Figure 2. Slide assembly locked to the rear

6. **Nomenclature**

1. Firing pin block
2. Extractor/loaded chamber indicator
3. Trigger
4. Front sight
5. Slide assembly
6. Disassembly lever
7. Slide stop
8. Rear sight
9. Ambidextrous safety
10 Hammer
11 Receiver
12 Grip
13 Lanyard loop
14 Magazine (seated)
15. Magazine catch assembly
16. Disassembly button

7. **Safety Features**

a. Firing pin block. Physically blocks movement of the firing pin unless the trigger is held to the rear, raising the block out of the way.

b. Ambidextrous safety. Lowers the hammer when applied without the danger of discharging the weapon. Rotates the firing pin striker out of alignment with the firing pin so that no force can be accidentally applied to the firing pin. The hammer cannot be cocked with the safety in the "SAFE" position.

c. Half-cock notch. Stops the hammer from accidentally falling fully forward should the full-cock notch be stripped. Also catches the hammer should the cocking cycle be interrupted in the double-action fire mode.

d. Extractor/loaded chamber indicator. When a round is in the chamber, the head of the extractor projects out from the surface of the slide, indicating a loaded weapon.

8. **Disassembly**. Disassembly of the M9 service pistol consists of fieldstripping into the four main groups for operator maintenance. No tools are required, and further disassembly is not authorized for the operator. Parts are machined to close tolerances, and disassembly must be carried out in the prescribed manner to prevent damage to the weapon.

a. The first step in disassembly is to allow the slide to travel forward by depressing the slide stop.

b. With the pistol in the right hand and the muzzle slightly elevated, use the left hand to depress the disassembly lever release button and rotate the disassembly lever downward until it stops. (See Figure 3.)

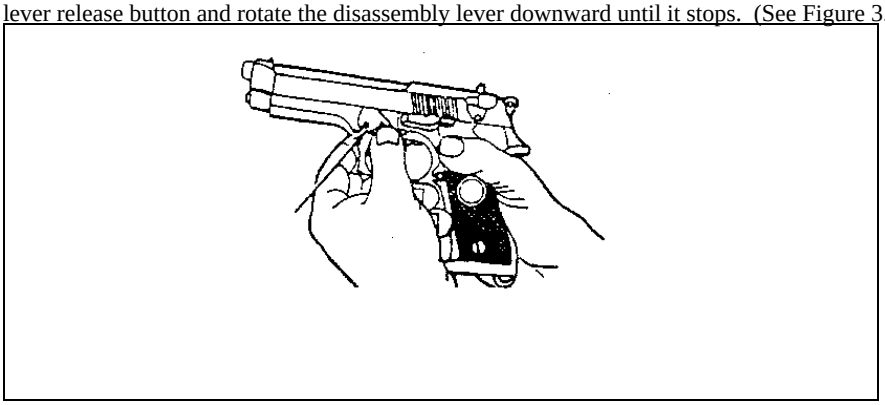


Figure 3. Rotation of disassembly lever release button

c. Pull the slide and barrel assembly forward and remove. (See Figure 4.)

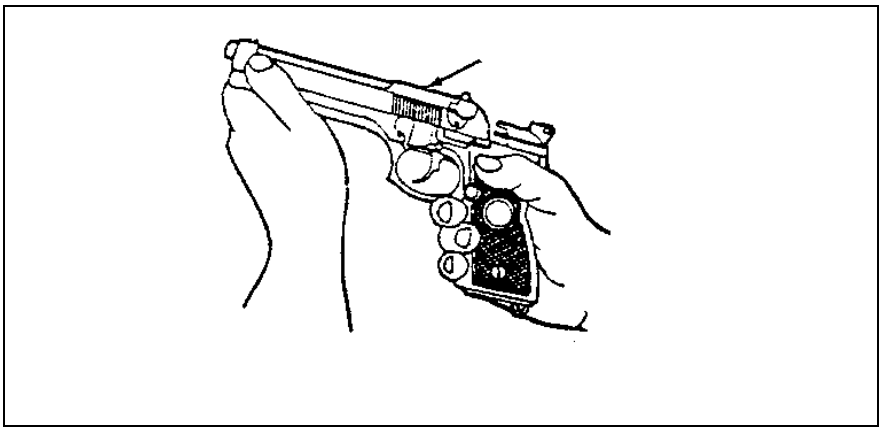


Figure 4. Removal of slide and barrel assembly

d. Compress the recoil spring and spring guide, and lift and remove it from the slide and barrel. (See Figure 5).

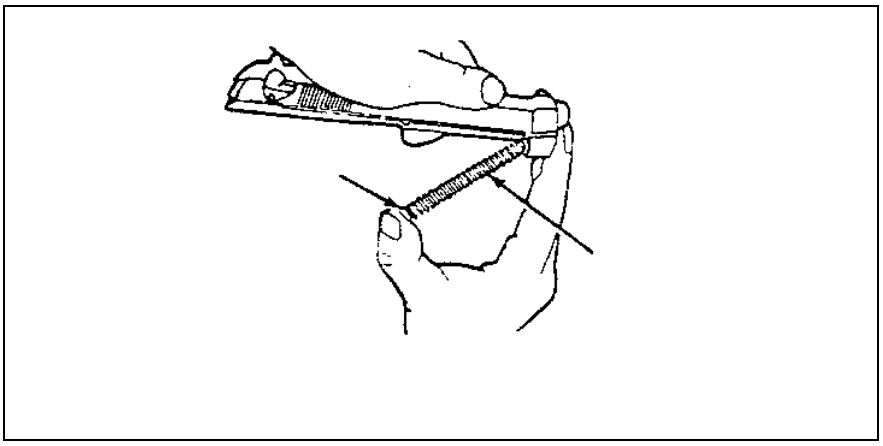


Figure 5. Removal of recoil spring from spring guide

e. Separate the recoil spring from the spring guide.

f. Push in on the locking block plunger while pushing the barrel forward slightly. Lift and remove the locking/barrel assembly from the slide. (See Figure 6.)

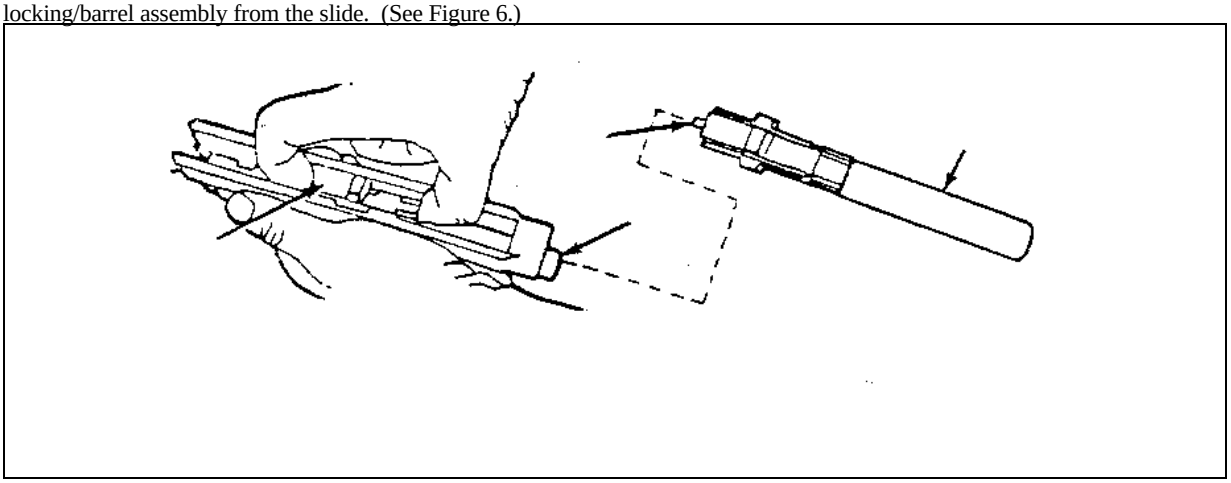


Figure 6. Removal of locking barrel assembly from slide

g. This completes general disassembly or fieldstripping. Notice that the weapon is disassembled into four groups. These are the four main groups of the weapon: the locking block/barrel group, the slide group, the recoil spring and spring guide group, and the receiver group. (See Figure 7.)

Figure 7. General disassembly into 4 main groups

9. **Detailed Nomenclature**

a. Locking block. Pivots vertically; locking lugs on sides lock into recesses in the slide; locking block lugs drop out of recesses when block pivots downward.

b. Locking block plunger. Strikes a camming surface in the receiver and forces the locking block downward.

c. Extractor/loaded chamber indicator. The spring-loaded, claw-type extractor protrudes from the side of the slide when a round is in the chamber.

d. Firing pin block. Moves vertically in the slide; blocks movement of the firing pin in the lowered position.

10. **Cleaning and Inspection**

a. Cleaning will be conducted with the weapon fieldstripped. The recommended cleaning agent is CLP. During the cleaning process do not allow the hammer to fall when the slide is removed. Always manually lower the hammer when the slide is removed.

(1) Slide Group. Clean with cloth, the AP brush, and CLP. Remove all excess dirt and carbon. Ensure the breech face, slide grooves, safety, and extractor are free of dirt and residue.

(2) Locking block/barrel group. Always clean the barrel from the chamber end first. Use a bore brush to loosen deposits and then swab with a cleaning patch and CLP. Continue this process until a clean patch no longer picks up deposits or residue. Clean the locking block with the AP brush.

(3) Recoil spring and spring guide. Use the AP brush, cloth, and CLP. Be careful not to stretch, bend, or crimp the spring.

(4) Receiver group. Use cloth and the AP brush with CLP to clean. Pay special attention to the disassembly lever, trigger, slide stop, hammer, and magazine release button.

b. The user should conduct an inspection before and after firing and frequently during handling to check for serviceability.

(1) Slide group. Check for free movement of the safety and the firing pin block. Check rear sight for looseness.

(2) Locking block/barrel group. Inspect bore and chamber for pitting or obstructions. Check locking block plunger for free movement and locking lugs for cracks or burrs.

(3) Recoil spring and recoil spring guide. Check spring for crimps or bends. Check spring guide for cracks, burrs, and for straightness.

(4) Receiver group. Check for bends, chips or cracks, especially near the guide rails. Check for free movement of the slide stop and magazine catch.

11. **Reassembly**. As with most small arms, reassembly of the M9 is the reverse of disassembly.

a. First, replace the barrel by placing it in the inverted slide, muzzle end first, and then dropping the locking block end into place.

b. Insert the recoil spring guide into the recoil spring. Then replace the assembly in the bottom of the slide by placing the spring into the recoil spring housing and compressing it until the spring guide will fully seat into the locking block cutout.

c. Line up the rear of the slide with the front of the receiver guide rails and push the slide and barrel assembly until the rear of the slide is slightly past the rear of the receiver.

d. Rotate the disassembly latch upward until it clicks in place.

12. **Functioning**

a. The eight steps in the cycle of functioning occur in the M9 in the following manner:

(1) Unlocking. Upon firing, the recoil forces generated force the slide and barrel, which are mechanically locked together by the locking block, to the rear. After a short distance the action of the locking block plunger forces the locking lugs on the locking block to swing down out of the recesses in the slide, and the locking block halts rearward movement of the barrel. The slide continues to the rear. This is unlocking.

(2) Extracting. As the slide travels to the rear independently of the barrel, it carries the claw-type extractor with it. Since the extractor holds the fired case by its extraction groove, the case is withdrawn from the chamber of the barrel as the slide travels rearward. As the case mouth clears the breech end of the chamber, extraction is complete.

(3) Ejection. As the extractor carries the case to the rear, the head of the case strikes the fixed ejector which pivots the case about the extractor and ejects it from the weapon.

(4) Cocking. Cocking can occur at this stage in the cycle of functioning. As the recoiling slide forces the hammer to the rear, the hammer strut compresses the hammer spring, and the hammer is held to the rear as the sear drops into the full-cock notch. Cocking can also occur in the double-action mode as the trigger is pulled to the rear, causing the hammer strut to compress the hammer spring and cocking the weapon.

(5) Feeding. The spring-loaded magazine follower pushes fresh rounds into the path of the slide as it returns forward under spring pressure of the compressed recoil spring.

(6) Chambering. The slide returns forward, under the pressure of the compressed recoil spring, and strips a fresh round from the feed lips of the magazine. This round is driven up the feed throat lips of the barrel and into the chamber. As the slide continues forward the case head slides up the breech face and under the extractor. When the round is fully in the chamber, the extractor has engaged the extraction groove, and the case head is supported by the breech face, chambering is complete.

(7) Locking. As the slide returns forward under the pressure of the expanding recoil spring, the locking block is cammed upward into one mechanical unit. Forward motion ceases as the locking block is stopped by the disassembly latch bolt. The action is now locked.

(8) Firing. Firing the M9 can be accomplished in two different modes, single action and double action mode. In the single action mode, the hammer has been cocked by the action of the slide rotating to the rear until the sear drops into the full-cock notch of the hammer. The trigger is pulled to fire the weapon. The motion of the trigger is transmitted by the trigger bar to the sear, which pivots to release the hammer and allows it to fall. The weapon may also be fired in the double-action mode. In this mode, a pull of the trigger both cocks and fires the weapon. During the initial pull of the trigger, the rear pull arm of the trigger bar pulls the hammer back, cocking the weapon. Continuing to pull the trigger will allow the rear pull lug to disengage from the double-action notch of the hammer and allow it to fall.

13. **Function Check**. After the weapon is reassembled, a function check should be performed.

a. Place the safety in the "SAFE" position, and pull and lock the slide to the rear.

b. Depress the slide stop. The slide should return fully forward. At the same time the hammer should fall to the fully forward position.

c. Squeeze and release the trigger. The firing pin block should move up and down. The hammer should not move.

d. Place the safety in the "FIRE" position. Squeeze the trigger; the hammer should cock and fall.

e. Squeeze the trigger again and hold it to the rear. Manually retract the slide and release it while holding the trigger to the rear. The hammer should not fall. Release the trigger; an audible click should be heard but the hammer should not fall.

f. Squeeze the trigger; the hammer should fall.

14. **Operation**

a. Procedures for filling the magazine. To fill the magazine, perform the following steps:

(1) Hold the magazine with the follower up.

(2) With the other hand, place a round on the follower in front of the magazine lips.

(3) Press down on the round and slide the round completely back under the lips. The base of the round should be flush with the back of the magazine.

(4) Repeat this procedure until the magazine is filled with the appropriate number of rounds. Holes on the back of the magazine allow the visual counting of rounds in five-round increments.

b. Loading. The pistol should be cleared before handling. The preferred method of loading is with the slide forward and with the weapon on safe.

(1) The first step is to insert a loaded magazine into the magazine well until it locks in place.

(2) With the pistol pointing in a safe direction, grasp the separated portions of the slide and retract the slide to the rear. Releasing the slide will strip a cartridge from the magazine and chamber it. The weapon is now loaded.

c. Firing. With the weapon loaded and the safety on "SAFE" the following procedures are utilized for firing.

(1) Release the manual safety by rotating the lever to the fully-up "FIRE" position.

(2) Aim in.

(3) Fire the pistol by squeezing the trigger. The first shot is fired in the double-action mode utilizing this method. After this shot, subsequent shots will be fired in the single-action mode as the hammer is automatically cocked by the functioning of the weapon. The single-action mode can also be accomplished by manually thumb-cocking the hammer.

d. Unloading. Unloading is simply the clearing procedure.

15. **Immediate Action and Remedial Action.**

a. Immediate action. Immediate action is performed to clear a stoppage. A stoppage is an unintentional interruption in the cycle of operation.

(1) Tap. Tap the bottom of the magazine to ensure it is properly seated.

(2) Rack. Pull the slide to the rear and release it.

(3) Bang. Aim in on your target and attempt to shoot.

b. Remedial action. Remedial action is performed if immediate action fails to clear an interruption. During remedial action, Marines must investigate the cause of the interruption in order to return the weapon to a usable state. To perform remedial action, use the procedures outlined in the acronym "SPORS." SPORS is divided into two phases:

(1) Phase one

S - Seek cover is the tactical situation permits.

P - Pull the slide all the way to the rear and attempt to lock the slide to the rear.

O - Observe for a round or brass to be ejected and take appropriate action to clear the stoppage.

(2) Phase two

R - Release the slide by depressing the slide stop.

S - Sight and attempt to fire.

Should the weapon still fail to fire, investigate for faulty ammunition or conduct a detailed inspection to determine the cause of stoppage.

16. **Weapon Conditions**. A weapon's readiness/safety status is described by one of four conditions. The steps in the loading and unloading process take the weapon through four specific levels of readiness for live fire.

a. Condition 1. Magazine inserted, round in chamber, slide forward, hammer down, and safety lever on safe.

b. Condition 2. N/A

c. Condition 3. Magazine inserted, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety lever is on safe.

d. Condition 4. Magazine removed, chamber empty, slide forward, and safety lever on safe.

17. **Weapons Commands**

a. Load. Takes the weapon from condition 4 to condition 3.

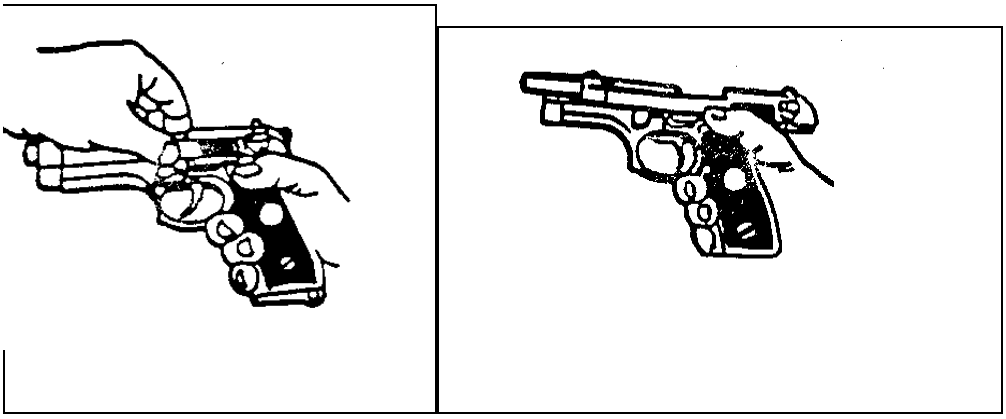
b. Make ready. Takes the weapon from condition 3 to condition 1.

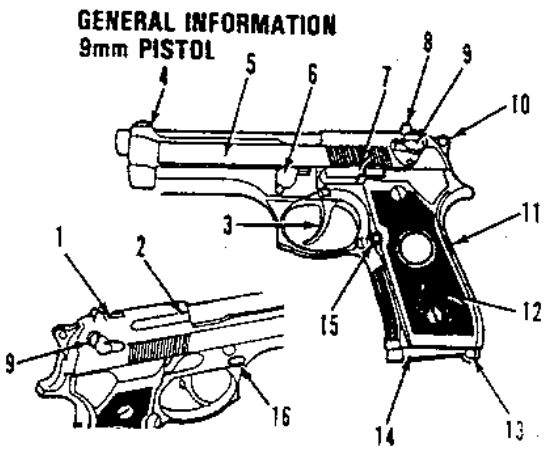
c. Fire. Engage target(s).

d. Cease fire. Cease target engagement.

e. Unload. Takes the weapon from any condition to condition 4.

f. Unload, Show clear. Requires a second individual to inspect the weapon before the weapon is placed into condition 4.




GENERAL INFORMATION
9mm PISTOL
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